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# THE CONDOR

A Magazine of  
Western Ornithology

J. GRINNELL, Editor

HARRY S. SWARTH, Associate Editor

J. EUGENE LAW  
W. LEE CHAMBERS } Business Managers

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Hollywood, California: Published Dec. 12, 1918

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## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

The Editors of THE CONDOR are greatly indebted to Mr. J. R. Pemberton for preparation by him of the annual index appearing with the present issue. The admirably accurate "copy" furnished by Mr. Pemberton is an evidence of the high quality we may look forward to in the ten-year index which he is now compiling to cover volumes xi to xx of our magazine.

Mr. J. Eugene Law has kindly consented to compile for the January issue of THE CONDOR a new and complete list of Cooper Club members in military service. He will welcome assistance in this line from anyone who can furnish the latest information concerning the location and rank of Club members.

A specially prepared glossary of words and phrases which can be used in describing birds' voices is something which seems to be badly needed by students of field ornithology. Mr. Richard M. Hunt, of the staff of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, has undertaken to prepare such a "nomenclature of sounds" and will appreciate any suggestions along this line.

A question has arisen as to the value of the annual roster of Cooper Club members, such as appeared in the last July issue of THE CONDOR, pages 147 to 156, and has appeared almost every year since our magazine began its career. It is claimed by some that, say, ten good pages are thereby appropriated, which might better be used for the recording of *ornithology*. The Editors are quite willing to submit this question to the decision of those Cooper Club members who are sufficiently interested in the matter to respond to a mail vote. Shall we discontinue printing the annual membership roster? Write "yes" or "no" on a postal card addressed to the *Editor of The Condor, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

Dr. Charles W. Richmond has recently been advanced to the rank of Associate Curator of Birds in the United States National

Museum. This is a well-deserved recognition of Richmond's scholarly attainments in taxonomic ornithology, as also of his fitness and experience as regards curatorial technique.

We would urge authors in general to exercise greater care in the selection of titles for their articles. It is not unusual to receive for publication in THE CONDOR papers, otherwise carefully prepared, lacking any title whatever, with, perhaps, a note "permitting" the Editors to place any heading they see fit above the contribution. In our bibliographic researches we often run across a title which gives no hint as to the nature of the article which it heads. Titles should be brief, but at the same time, should give as clear an indication of the subject matter of the article as is consistent with brevity. Considerable thought can well be expended to attain the best results in this direction.

Our readers will have read with interest Mr. Frank Stephens' "Autobiography" in the September issue of THE CONDOR. We are grateful to him for thus being the first to respond to our request. It is a pleasure to announce that three others of our senior ornithologists have now consented to furnish autobiographies; their contributions will appear in early numbers of our magazine.

During the past summer Dr. W. P. Taylor has carried on field work for the United States Biological Survey in parts of eastern Washington.

Dr. Lee R. Dice, recently of the zoological staff of the University of Montana, has become identified with the work of the United States Biological Survey and has removed to Washington, D. C.

Mr. F. C. Lincoln, Curator of Birds at the Colorado Museum of Natural History, is now in the Pigeon Section, U. S. Signal Corps, stationed at the headquarters of the western department at San Francisco.

## COMMUNICATION

### TRINOMIALS AND CURRENT PRACTICE

Editor of THE CONDOR:

Mr. Swarth's criticism (CONDOR xx, 1918, pp. 141-142) of my report on the ornithological accessions to the Museum, in the Summary Report of the Geological Survey of Canada, for 1915-16, is welcome, as it gives opportunity for presenting what is perhaps a novel viewpoint, and may be the means of opening up and airing an important subject. As a preliminary, I would state that this bi-